

## Day 221 – Tuesday, October 27

Today I am 60 years and one day old. Many people asked me, “What are you going to do for your 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Or what are you going to do to mark this year. My response was, and is, “Nothing special.” Yesterday I slept in (which I thoroughly enjoy), I had lunch with those that are painting the kitchen in the hall. I made a quick trip to Saskatoon to exchange a pair of shoes, I taught a Baptismal Preparation class, and I went to a friend’s place for a beer and a soak in his hot tub. In other words “a rather ordinary day.” When I think of our faith, and people ask the question, “If you know Jesus was coming again in all his glory, tomorrow, what would you do different.” I would hope that my answer would be “Nothing different.” Not because I don’t want to be doing something different, but I hope I am living my life in such a way, that I am doing all I can, to squeeze in all that I can, into the short time that we have.

When I go to bed at night and reflect on the day, there are not many days that I did weren't full and fulfilling. I believe that is how we should live every day, whether it is our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, or the day before Jesus comes in all his glory. Does that mean I do not have a bucket list. Of course I do, I still want to go beachcombing on a shore that has never seen a human foot. (Or at least not one for a very long time). I want to soak in a number of natural hot springs. I want to swim in some beautiful coral reefs. But spending time with friends. Doing the work of God. Helping build the church. These are more important than anything on a bucket list.

Each of us is growing older, and whether we want it to happen - our time and our abilities are becoming more limited. I believe our greatest sorrow would be to become old and grey and have a number of regrets about missed opportunities. I remember reading a description of how people enter into heaven:

“Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, champagne in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming “WOO HOO what a ride!”

*In the light of eternity, we're here for a very short time, really. We're here for one thing, ultimately: to learn how to love, because God is love. - James Finley*

Sincerely,  
Fr. Jim Kaptein